



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016

No. 177

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House as they anticipate returning to their home districts. Once they return home, may they find rest and renewal during their time with family and friends.

Bless our Nation as the holy days of the religious traditions for so many of our citizens approach and as the year comes to a close. Help us to look to the future with hope, committed to a renewed effort to work together as citizens of a united America.

Help us all to be truly grateful for the blessings of this past year.

As always, we pray that whatever is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GABBARD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING JOANN VAN TASSEL OF LAKE ORION

(Mr. BISHOP of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize JoAnn Van Tassel of Lake Orion. She has devoted her life to selfless acts to benefit others and is being recognized as 2016 Citizen of the Year by the Orion Area Parade Group.

JoAnn has been a champion in the community by always supporting local events and important causes. She is active with many agencies, including the North Oakland Community Coalition and the Downtown Development Authority. Among her many charitable acts, JoAnn has organized fundraising events to help those in need and cleans up our roadways to ensure that our community stays beautiful.

While serving as Orion Township supervisor for 13 years, JoAnn has dedi-

cated countless hours to improving the Lake Orion community. Her generosity has touched the lives of many, and her efforts will have a profound impact on generations to come.

So, thank you to JoAnn Van Tassel for making the Lake Orion community a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Your generous contributions have not gone unnoticed.

DRAIN THE SWAMP

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the Drain the Swamp Act. My bill would make violations of President-elect Trump's recently announced revolving door lobby ban punishable by law. He said that he will bar political appointees from lobbying for 5 years after they serve in his administration and permanently from lobbying for foreign governments.

Unfortunately, his proposal lacks any enforcement mechanism. I want this to be more than a press release. I want to help him in this effort. Just look at the Office of Special Trade Representative. Why is our trade policy so bad? Because those people worked for industry and then come back to work for the government and go work for industry and promote their own interests. That goes on in many agencies.

This would be a good thing for America.

So I would extend the existing penalties which apply to very few people over a shorter period of time with penalties up to \$50,000 and 1 year in jail to cover all of the 3,648 executive branch political appointees.

I am introducing it today knowing it is the end of the Congress, but I am going to provide it to the Trump transition team in the hope that they will endorse this bill, which I will introduce

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H7401